

CONFIDENTIAL
SOVIET AVIATION "SHOW-OFF" PLANS

- I. In past few weeks, USSR has apparently adopted surprising new policy of actively seeking international publicity for its achievements in aircraft design.
 - A. Soviet engineers, visiting Toronto International Trade Fair, publicly characterized US air display as "obsolete" (~~which is~~): suggested that world watch for "something new" at Moscow Aviation Day fly-by this weekend.
 - B. Soviet Legation in Switzerland has indicated USSR's interest in exhibiting military planes at Geneva International Air Show (24 June-17 July).
 - C. USSR may also participate in Canada's International Air Show next year.

NO FORN DISSEM
CLAS. BY: [REDACTED]
DATE: [REDACTED]
REASON: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VOID **CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

D. Finally, USSR has--for second consecutive year--pushed schedule for annual Aviation Day display (normally July) up to ^{MID-}~~late~~ June (19th).

II. Technical press has reported comments made at Toronto Trade Fair by team of Soviet engineers, who showed particular interest in Martin Matador (pilotless bomber) and US jet engine exhibits.

A. Engineers stated that coming Aviation Day display will include "models more advanced than those seen before" and will "make US airpower look obsolete."

B. Suggested Canadian hosts visit Moscow to "compare what you see here with what we will show."

III. In Switzerland, Soviet Legation spokesman--following up earlier statements by local Soviet officials that USSR might send MIG jet fighters to next week's Geneva show (where SE, France and others will display late military types)--said USSR "seriously considering" participation.

CONFIDENTIAL

A. Asked details on plans of other nations, particularly US.

B. Questioned suitability of Geneva airport for Soviet bombers: stated that, if unable to land, bombers might in any case over-fly show.

IV. Possibility of USSR exhibition at next year's Canadian Air Show (June '56) first broached in May this year, when Soviet Ambassador made bid for such participation.

A. Press states that engineers at Toronto Fair confirmed this Soviet intent.

V. Meanwhile, preparations for unusually early Aviation Day fly-by in Moscow have displayed same jet bombers (four-jet BISCONS and twin-jet BADGERS) which overflew city in rehearsals for abortive May Day parade.

A. ~~Not seen, so far, is~~ REHEARSALS HAVE ALSO INCLUDED FEW OF turbo-prop bombers

(BEAR), of which at least nine were seen before May Day.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000600010061-3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SEEN REHEARSING~~

Aviation Day display are the new day fighters (FARMER) and all-weather interceptors (FLASHLIGHT) likewise seen before May Day.

C. Only "new" craft seen rehearsing to date is a large helicopter.

1. Seems unlikely that blow-hard engineers at Toronto would have had something this "tame" in mind.
2. Has been Soviet practice in past to include prototypes in this show, so surprise may be in store.

VI. Following considerations could underlie apparent Kremlin search for limelight on air developments.

A. Present Soviet progress places USSR on at least equal footing with US in development some categories of modern fighters, bombers.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000600010061-3

- B. "Show-off" in Moscow, properly touted abroad, serves to underscore this progress.
- C. "Show-off" abroad (if either Geneva or Canada participation actually materializes) permits muscle-flexing before audience particularly sensitive to threat of nuclear war.
- D. At same time, such "show-off" can be propagandized by USSR as exact opposite--a sort of "curtain-lifting" posture towards international amity, cooperation.

-5-

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000600010061-3